

MATRONS AND MAIDS.

THOUGHTS FOR WOMEN OLD AND YOUNG.

A Type of True-hearted Woman—How to Make the Dining Room Attractive—Advice to a Girl Who Expects a Proposal—Feminine Gosips.

When she should say No.



HE should refuse him when she knows his habits to be intemperate, for there can be no unhappier fate than a marriage with a drunkard. She should refuse him when there is a hereditary disease in his family, such as consumption or insanity, which would in all probability show itself and cause infinite misery in after years. She should refuse him when she sees he is in the habit of associating with bad companions, who may lead him into a gambling, drinking, and card-playing life. She should refuse him when she knows him to be that despicable thing, a male flirt; she should reflect that as he has treated other girls so he may treat herself, and no woman cares to lay herself open to such treatment. She should refuse him when she feels she has no love to give him, and not marry, as many girls do, for a home. No marriage can be truly happy without love to sweeten the bonds. She should refuse him when he is proposing to her for her money or from pique. A girl can generally distinguish real love from feigned, and even if she cares for him should not accept him until convinced his motives are disinterested. She should not refuse him when she really cares for him and knows him to be a steady, faithful man, who will make her happy and not cause her heartbreaks, which, perhaps, one of her more brilliant lovers might have done.

Have Your Table Dainty.

It goes without saying that daintiness upon the dining table is regarded as a necessity in every well-ordered home. The two or three daily meals are often the only occasions when the entire household gathers together, and the mother knows that a prettily arranged table is really a powerful factor in forming the characters and habits of her children. Absolute cleanliness is, of course, the first essential. The cloth must be spotless and smoothly laid, the napkins must be neatly folded, and the glass and silver must be beyond reproach. Every good housekeeper nowadays places a pad beneath the tablecloth. This protects the cloth from contact with the table, greatly increasing its durability, and it insures perfect quiet and an elegant adjustment of the cloth. The use of "table millinery"—that is, strips of ribbon, push, or velvet and other decorations of a similar nature—is no longer approved, so that even at the most elegant dinners the trow of flowers in the center of the table is often the only ornament.

No high dishes or accessories are seen upon the strictly modern table. The silver caster may be very beautiful in itself, but it has had its day. In its place small pepper and salt "shakers" are distributed at convenient intervals, two of each being sufficient for a family of six, while vinegar is placed in low glass bottles shaped like fancy pitchers, with handles, long, slender necks, and large, ornamental glass stoppers. These bottles should not be more than three inches tall. Tall colored glasses are also in disrepute, as are also the silver water pitcher and high vases of flowers and tall flowering plants. The modern table is not disfigured by mats, which are never really ornamental, and are wholly unnecessary if a pad is used and the dishes are not heated.

Glass carafes are at present used instead of the water pitcher, and add much to the beauty of the table. They are by no means expensive, and those that have rather squat, broad bowls are to be preferred. Perhaps the most popular shape is that which looks as though pressure had been put upon the top and the bowl thereby bulged outward.—Bellineau.

The Lords of Creation.

It is always amusing and at the same time very pathetically suggestive of masculine vanity to hear a no-account man prate of what the woman who becomes his wife must be. It matters not to this person that this creature to be so honored may have a word or two to say concerning the type of life partner she would select. Oh, dear, no. A woman has no voice in the matter. Any man is sufficiently perfect to fill the roll of husband—that is, according to the egotistical view of life taken by the lords of creation.

A man, no matter whether he is lame, halt, or blind; a man, no matter whether he is able to earn his salt or not, always sets up an ideal that is to be his some day for the asking. He candidly admits that he may have to search a long while for her, because perfect women are so hard to find, but once he meets with this jewel she will at once fall into his arms, never questioning whether a little evening up of accounts would not be preferable to the one-sided perfection he demands.

So many men talk in this silly fashion that when a woman comes across one who reverences her sex in this entirely, regarding all women-kind as so much better, nobler, and leveler than man ever could hope to be, she has no hesitancy in declaring that individual the one whom she

sincerely admires. It is such nonsense for the average man to prate of perfect beauty of face, form, and character as the requisites a wife of his must possess to win his fancy. He may think that he will not unbend until this ideal is found, but love is blind, and when once it meets the woman who pleases him it will not matter whether she possesses even one of the attributes that he declared were requisite. Therefore, let not man prate of perfection save in himself, for all the talking in the world would never convince outsiders that he possessed even a tithe of the virtues he talks so glibly about.

The Plain Sister.

There is one type of true-hearted, unselfish woman whom the world does not know how to appreciate at her full value. She is the plain sister in a family of pretty daughters. The fact that she is not a beauty is regarded by the handsome mother as a personal grievance and by the better looking sisters as an excuse for palming off on to her all the disagreeable burdens that they think are not necessary for butterflies to assume. Instead of being given the best in the way of clothing, in order that the meed of good looks which she possesses may be enhanced or any actually unpleasant physical defects may be hidden thereby, the ugly duckling is obliged to take the cast off garments of the favored ones and wear them whether they are becoming or not.

When invitations come and the exchequer is rather slim the plain one remains at home, while the dainty, pretty creatures of good fortune are rigged out in new clothes and sent forth to enjoy the light and the music, while poor Cinderella remains behind in a chaos of ribbons, discarded shoes and heterogeneous toilet articles that she must straighten up before the belles return from the ball. She is always expected to perform the services of maid, to be ever ready to wait on the others, preparing the goodies when company is expected, but never requested to join in the festivities she has slaved so hard to make a success. Sometimes a sensible man recognizes the worth of this youthful martyr and bears her away to a new home before the prettier ones have recovered from their astonishment at having been overlooked, but in too many cases the genuine beauty of character lies hidden and unrecognized behind the haunting, ever-winning presence of beauty of face and form.—Philadelphia Times.

Fitting Up a Room.

The side walls lighter than the floor, or floor covering, and the ceiling lighter than the side walls, is a rule used by decorators in fitting up a room. One coloring in varying shades is often chosen for the color scheme, and the contrast is introduced in the furniture, pillows, pictures, vases, and other objects necessary to the comfort or beauty of a room. Plain surfaces are artistic for floor covering, though to the housekeeper they are often objectionable, because they show dust more plainly than a surface covered by some sort of a pattern. When a patterned carpet or rug is used, let it be covered with anything except natural looking flowers and leaves, which one dislikes to tread upon, which will not be ignored, and which draw one's mind from the really attractive things in a room. Those who dislike walls with plain surfaces, which certainly are monotonous and unattractive unless the spaces are frequently broken by pictures, should select coverings having the lighter color for a background, patterned with a medium or darker shade of the same color. As the hangings form a part of the wall, they should also be somewhat lighter than the floor covering.—New York Mail and Express.

Feminine Gosips.

Mrs. DANDRIDGE, the only surviving daughter of Zachary Taylor, has the widow of Gen. Boulanger intends, it is said, to spend the remainder of her life in the French colony at Tunis.

QUEEN VICTORIA is said to be a very bad speller and addicted to the habit of writing illegibly to hide errors in orthography.

LADY LANSDOWNE has presented a handsome silver medal to the Ladies' Golf Club of Calcutta, of which she was formerly President.

Mrs. STEPHEN COOMBS of Rockport, Me., who is 93 years old, spun sixty-two skeins of yarn last winter and carded one fleece of wool.

MISS DR. HAMILTON of England, who is doctoring the Amer's family in Calcutta, has a guard of natives to look after her. The Indian Government has disowned all responsibility for her safety.

SEVENTY-FIVE girls employed as waitresses in a Toledo (O.) restaurant struck rather than wear caps. They had submitted to various other regulations, but thought this order capped the climax.

Mrs. HENRY WARD BEECHER says in regard to woman suffrage: "I am unalterably opposed to woman suffrage. I cannot understand why women will not be satisfied with being women, without aspiring to man's estate."

THE City Council of El Paso, Tex., has passed an ordinance prohibiting women from wearing divided skirts on the streets of that town. Public opinion there is bifurcated, so to speak, as to the wisdom of such legislation.

Mrs. NELLIE GRANT SARTORIS has not found a house to suit her and next autumn, when she expects to consider the question of locating permanently in Washington. She will spend the summer with her mother in New York.



FOR AFTERNOONS AT HOME. The figure on the right represents a tea jacket of white Japanese crepe with a yoke of lace insertion set over blue silk. The front hangs loose like the back. The central figure is a waist of checked silk in light colors over a black faille skirt. The left figure shows a tea jacket of white pongee with white lace trimming. It is shirred front and back to make it fit the figure. The small figure in the background shows the back of the figure on the left.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SAYINGS AND DOINGS HERE AND THERE.

Jokes and Jokelets that Are Supposed to Have Been Recently Born—Sayings and Doings that Are Odd, Curious, and Laughable—The Week's Humor.

Let Us All Laugh.

MANY a man is living an honest life who wouldn't if the jail were further off.—Ram's Horn.

LITTLE DOT—Why do you pray so loud for things you want? God isn't deaf. Little Dick—No, but grandpa is.—Life.

HARDUP—Hello, Charlie! Your trousers bag at the knees. Ded broke—I wish they bagged at the pocket-book!—Truth.

BRATE FATHER—When I die, I shall leave you without a penny. Cym Son—Certainly. You can't take money along, you know.—Truth.

BOSTON GIRL—Do you know, I fancy heaven will be much like Boston. Chicago girl—Why? Because there won't be men enough to go around.—Life.

WIFEY—The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The brute—I know; but I think scientific research has already numbered enough martyrs.—Truth.

GUIDE—Now you will have to be careful; many a tourist has broken his neck at this spot. Gent (to his wife)—Augusta, you go first.—Spare Moments.

GUNS is a great lawyer. His cross-examination always embarrasses a witness. "How does he do it?" "Asks if each statement made in direct examination is true."—Truth.

THERE'S a friend down stairs waiting for you; says he wants you only for a minute." Mr. Catchon—Here, James, take this ten dollars and keep it until I come back.—Fun.

NELLIE—Why do you send out your wedding invitations so far in advance? Millie—Many of our friends keep their money in savings banks, and have to give notice.—New York Weekly.

Mrs. SUBURB—Why in the world don't you grease that lawn-mower of yours? Neighbor's Hired Man—The missus told me not to till you had your planer tuned.—New York Weekly.

SHE—If every atom of the human body is renewed every seven years, I cannot be the same woman that you married. He—I've been suspecting that for some time.—New York Weekly.

NOTICE Lushley at the banquet last night? Seem'd to enter into the spirit of the thing freely. "Er—yes; but not so freely as the spirits of the thing entered into him."—Buffalo Courier.

SHE—Here's a bill from the doctor. He—What's it for? Ethel—I know, mamma. Doctor spoke cross to me yesterday on the street, and I stuck out my tongue at him.—Yonkers Statesman.

DEACON GRAVELEIGH—Do you believe in infant damnation, Mr. Poppleigh? Poppleigh (who has spent most of the night doing a ghost dance with his youngest—fervently)—You bet I do!—Truth.

"Why," asked the boarder at the head of the table, "are ham and eggs always associated together?" "That," remarked the very bad actor, eagerly, "is just what I would like to know."—Detroit Tribune.

HAUGHTY LADY (who has just purchased a stamp)—"Must I put it on myself?" Postoffice Assistant (very politely)—"Not necessarily, madam; it will probably accomplish more if

you put it on the letter."—Newark Ledger.

PATRON—Waiter, waiter! can't you hurry up that steak? I've been waiting ten minutes. Waiter—Sorry, sir; but it takes five minutes to pound it and seven to cook it. It will be ready shortly.—Arkansas Traveler.

BOY—It's awful lucky we have our examinations for promotion now, instead of in the fall when the school opens. Father—Why? Boy—"Cause when school begins in the fall we none of us ever know anything.—Good News.

HE—Do you think, darling, that it would be advisable for me to speak to your father to-day? She—Well, baird, dearest. He remarked this morning that the fire-crackers you gave my little brother woke him up at 3 o'clock.

WILLIE—When my wife makes me a present it is sure to be something that will last. Wallace—My wife is just like her. Five years ago she made me a present of one hundred cigars, and I have ninety-nine of them yet.—Life.

WILLIE—Say, papa, can't I have a dollar for some more fire-crackers? Slimson—But I let you have \$5 this morning. Willie—I know it. But I used them all up on mamma's pet dog. Slimson—Here, my boy, take \$5 more.—Life.

DASHAWAY—Here's a telegram announcing that my uncle is dead. I've been expecting it all along. Cleverton—How do you know he is dead? You haven't read it. Dashaway—No; but if he were alive it would come collect."—Brook yn Life.

A CALLER had mentioned that a neighbor had been obliged to shoot his dog because he had grown old and cross. After he had gone, little Edith, who had been quiet since the dog was spoken of, surprised her mother by asking: "Mamma, when do you think papa will shoot Aunt Sarah?"—Tid-Bits.

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